

Message Text

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TO SECSTATE WASHDC 2148

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C O N F I D E N T I A L GENEVA 2663

E.O. 11652: GDS

TAGS: CSCE, PFOR, XG

SUBJECT: CSCE POLICY: INFORMATION -- WORKING CONDITIONS FOR
JOURNALISTS

REF: (A) GENEVA 2530; (B) GENEVA 569; (C) GENEVA 1911

1. AT INFORMAL MEETING APRIL 15 OF U.S., UK, AND FRG DELS WITH SOVIET, POLISH AND BULGARIAN REPS TO CONTINUE DISCUSSION OF PARA 5 OF JOURNALISTS TEXT (REFTEL A), SOVIETS INSISTED THEY HAD REACHED THE LIMIT OF THEIR FLEXIBILITY. THEY PROPOSED WE SEEK TO REACH AGREEMENT ALONG THE LINES OF THE SWISS TEXT FOR THIS PARAGRAPH (REFTEL B), OR ALTERNATIVELY DROP PARA 5 COMPLETELY, TWO APPROACHES WHICH UK AS WESTERN SPOKESMAN SAID WERE UNACCEPTABLE.

2. SUBSTANTIVE DISCUSSION FOCUSED PRIMARILY ON THE TIME FACTOR. SOVIETS REJECTED "EXPEDITE", WHICH IN THEIR VIEW IMPLIED FAVORABLE DECISIONS ON REQUESTS FOR TRAVEL RATHER THAN SIMPLY CONVEYING THE IDEA OF AN "EARLY RESPONSE." US REP PICKED UP THIS SOVIET CHOICE OF WORDS, AND SUGGESTED "EARLY RESPONSE" MIGHT BE USEFUL FORMULATION. WARSAW PACT DELS CAREFULLY NOTED US
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SUGGESTION, BUT HARD-LINING SOVIET BASKET III CHIEF

DUBININ INTERVENED TO DISMISS US USE OF SOVIET PHRASE-
OLOGY A "NEGOTIATING RUSE."

3. SOVIETS EXPRESSED CATEGORIC OPPOSITION TO FORMULA-
TIONS "FACILITATE WIDER TRAVEL" OR EVEN "FACILITATE
TRAVEL," INSISTING THEY COULD NOT GO BEYOND
"FACILITATE PROCEDURES." UNFORTUNATELY, IN ARGUING THIS
POINT UK REP INDICATED HIS DEL DID NOT FEEL CONSTRAINED
TO INSIST ON WIDER TRAVEL, THUS MAKING IT CLEAR THAT
US DEL WAS ONLY DELEGATION PRESENT WHICH IS STILL PUR-
SUING IDEA OF "WIDER TRAVEL." UNDER THE CIRCUMSTANCES
IT DID NOT SEEM OPPORTUNE TO RAISE POSSIBLE ALTERNATE
WORDING OF WIDER TRAVEL IDEA (REFTEL A), AND WE CONFINED
OURSELVES TO STATING THAT WE WERE STILL INTERESTED IN
REFLECTING THE CONCEPT OF WIDER TRAVEL, BUT COULD CON-
SIDER ALTERNATIVE PHRASES. (WE WILL TRY ALTERNATIVE
WORDINGS ON SOVIETS WHEN WE NEXT HAVE AN OPPORTUNITY
TO SPEAK TO THEM PRIVATELY.)

4. MEETING ENDED IN DEADLOCK WHEN SOVIETS REFUSED
UK SUGGESTION TO MOVE ON TO A DISCUSSION OF PARA 6
OF JOURNALISTS TEXT.

5. IN VIEW OF PRESENT APPARENT IMPASSE, WE WOULD
RECOMMEND THAT AT SUITABLE OPPORTUNITY US INTEREST
IN JOURNALISTS TEXT BE STRESSED TO SOVIETS AT APPROPRIATELY
HIGH LEVEL IN WASHINGTON AND/OR MOSCOW. IF SOVIETS
CONTINUE TO SHOW NO FLEXIBILITY, WE MAY AT A LATER
DATE WISH TO CONSIDER DROPPING EXPLICIT REFERENCE TO
WIDER TRAVEL, PROVIDED IT APPEARS POSSIBLE TO OBTAIN
A TEXT WHICH CONTAINS THE FORMULATION "FACILITATE
TRAVEL," AND WHICH ADEQUATELY EXPRESSES THE TIME FACTOR.
SUCH A POSITION WOULD BRING US BACK INTO LINE WITH OUR
ALLIES AND WOULD, WE THINK, BE NEGOTIABLE. IN VIEW
OF GROWING SOVIET SENSITIVITY ON THE JOURNALISTS
TEXT, WE WOULD APPRECIATE GUIDANCE. DALE

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